

## **Exhibit 5**

### **Hinojosa, Rebekah Declaration of Standing**

**DECLARATION OF REBEKAH LYNN HINOJOSA**

I, Rebekah Lynn Hinojosa, hereby state as follows:

1. I am of legal age and am competent to give this declaration. All information herein is based on my own personal knowledge unless otherwise indicated. I give this declaration for use in Sierra Club's challenges to FERC's Remand Orders concerning the Rio Grande LNG, Rio Bravo pipeline, and Texas LNG projects.
2. I currently reside in Brownsville, Texas, about 39 minutes from the Laguna Atascosa Wildlife Refuge. I have lived at my current address for over four years, and I have lived in Brownsville for over five years. I have lived in cities throughout the broader Rio Grande Valley region for over 26 years. I have no plans to leave.
3. I have been a member of the Sierra Club for about seven-and-a-half years. While I was at university, I was a part of the Sierra Student Coalition. Soon after I graduated I began working for Sierra Club and I continued to work there for over seven years. While I no longer work at the Sierra Club, I remain an active member. Moreover, despite changing jobs, I continue to organize and work with community campaigns to support wildlife and conservation issues. Specifically, I

work to educate the public on liquefied natural gas (“LNG”) infrastructure that would endanger the health of my community, the integrity of the local ecosystem, and the climate.

4. The Sierra Club is a nationwide non-profit environmental membership organization whose purpose is to explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the earth; to practice and promote the responsible use of the earth’s ecosystem and resources; to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment; and to use all lawful means to carry out those objectives. Restoring the quality of the natural and human environment includes protecting the biological integrity of the land, quality of the air, and the protection of threatened and endangered species such as the ocelot and their habitat.

5. I both recreate and work in the Bahia Grande unit of the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge. I visit the area about once every two months and plan to visit at this rate indefinitely into the future. The area I visit is right on Highway 48, adjacent to the Rio Grande LNG and Texas LNG terminal facilities. I recreate in the Bahia Grande by taking walks and taking in the view of the wetlands. I enjoy watching

the wildlife, especially migratory birds like the spoonbill, brown pelican, blue heron, and endangered Aplomado falcon. I often look for ocelots, a species I admire.

6. I am very concerned about impacts from construction and operation of the Rio Grande LNG and Texas LNG when I am recreating in the Bahia Grande. It is my understanding that construction and operation of these facilities will emit a lot of air pollution. I am concerned about how this air pollution will impact my health when I am at the Bahia Grande. I am also concerned about negative impacts from air pollution more generally. I live in the project area. It is my understanding that these projects will make the air quality in my community worse. I am concerned about the impacts this will have on my health. While I am concerned about all the air pollution from the projects, both individually and cumulatively, I am especially concerned with emissions of particulate matter and nitrogen oxides. It is my understanding that these kinds of air pollution can have negative impacts on my respiratory health.

7. I have other concerns about these projects too. One of the reasons I go to the Bahia Grande to recreate is to enjoy the natural beauty of

the area. Construction of the Rio Grande LNG and Texas LNG facilities will substantially reduce my enjoyment of the natural beauty of the Bahia Grande area. In fact, it already has. I have gone to the Bahia Grande several times since Rio Grande LNG began site preparation activities. Each time, my attempts to enjoy my natural surroundings were thwarted. If site preparation activities were to continue, my inability to enjoy the Bahia Grande would continue. If Rio Grande LNG began construction and/or if Texas LNG began construction and/or site preparation activities, this issue would be worse. If either or both facilities were eventually placed into service, this too would make it impossible for me to enjoy my time at the Bahia Grande like I was able to before FERC approved these facilities.

8. I am also concerned about impacts from the Rio Bravo pipeline system. I am familiar with the project and with the proposed route of the pipeline system. And I know the Rio Bravo Pipeline would cross the Bahia Grande where I go when I am there. I have many concerns about the pipeline system. Construction of the pipeline would require clearing trees and brush along the entire route, and the center of the right of way would be kept clear permanently, leaving a scar on the land that

would ruin the view of the wetlands that I enjoy so much. I also worry that the clearing of the area's vegetation, the construction of the pipeline, and the noise of the pipeline's construction would devastate the integrity of the habitat and threaten the wildlife I admire, including the ocelot and migratory birds. The loss of vegetation would damage the wetlands that birds like spoonbills, brown pelicans, and blue herons depend on to live. Preserving the habitat and wildlife of the Bahia Grande is extremely important because it is where the ocelot and these birds live and travel. If the Rio Bravo Pipeline is built, it will have adverse impacts on these populations. So would the Rio Grande LNG and Texas LNG projects. This would be very upsetting because it would limit opportunities for me and the rest of the general public to see them, all while creating an eyesore of once pristine wetland. If built, construction and operation of the Rio Bravo Pipeline would substantially reduce my enjoyment of recreating at the Bahia Grande.

9. I am especially concerned about the impacts of all three projects on the ocelot. The Rio Grande Valley is home to the ocelot; they are vital for my community's ecosystem, food chain, and culture and roam through the beautiful Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge. All

over the valley we have ocelot themed gatherings, educational events, 5k runs, wildlife events, and more. It is a deeply significant species to the people that live in this valley. We learn about ocelots in public school. We visit nature parks that are part of the wildlife corridor in the region where the ocelot traverse. It is a very big part of my life. Ocelots are so endangered that we don't actively see them outside of community events. It would mean so much to me to see one in the wild in my lifetime. For now, I enjoy seeing photos online of ocelots from wildlife cameras located in our community. It is very upsetting to me that these three projects, both individually and cumulatively, would destroy habitat that the few remaining ocelots use for survival. And it is very upsetting to me that construction of the projects, both individually and cumulatively, would lead to more traffic that would lead to vehicles striking ocelots.

10. I am also concerned about the safety of the Rio Bravo pipeline system. Texas has a horrible track record for pipeline safety, and so I fear my community would be at risk of pipeline explosions. There have been several pipeline explosions in Texas. Texas has more miles of pipelines than roads, and the Texas Railroad Commission, which

oversees pipelines, is severely understaffed and has a track record of failing to oversee pipelines and respond to pipeline disasters. Given that track record, I'm worried about what will happen if the massive Rio Bravo pipeline system, carrying so much gas through the community, explodes or leaks—it would be devastating for the community. Two pipelines, side-by-side, with that much gas would have a massive blast radius, over a thousand feet, or maybe even half-a-mile. I'm worried about what that means for local families, wildlife, wetlands, water, and roads. Texas has a terrible track record of cleaning up and addressing explosions. For example, in Los Fresnos there is an existing Enbridge pipeline that caused a sinkhole to appear in the community. In east Texas, Enbridge, which would build the Rio Bravo pipeline, didn't properly mark where the pipeline was. A man mowed the grass over the pipeline, it exploded, and he died. I don't trust Enbridge to build a pipeline in my community.

11. Part of my job is educating my local community, visitors, and elected officials and introducing them to the beauty of the Bahia Grande. I give tours of the Bahia Grande to reporters, journalists, filmmakers, and community leaders to show them the ecosystem and



encourage them to help preserve it. The Bahia Grande is special because it's very accessible—you can just pull over on the highway and enjoy its beauty. Other wildlife refuges and nature centers nearby are more difficult to get to and are not as vast. I educate the community about their impacts on the surrounding ecosystem and how the ecosystem impacts them. I also organize petitions, letters, and protests within my community to urge local officials and banks to drop support for oil and gas projects and to protect our community, the ecosystem, and the planet.

12. If construction and/or operation of the Rio Grande LNG terminal, Texas LNG terminal, and/or Rio Bravo pipeline begins, it would make visits to the Bahia Grande more difficult. Construction would take over Highway 48 and make the Bahia Grande more difficult to access. I've seen this happen to the Bahia Grande when other nearby pipelines were built. And it has already started happening with site preparation activities at the Rio Grande LNG terminal. The scar on the landscape from the projects would negatively impact my enjoyment and the enjoyment of people I tour around the Bahia Grande. For these reasons, it would be harder for me to enlist their support in protecting our

community, ecosystem, and planet. It would increase exports of liquefied natural gas sources from the Permian Basin and Eagle Ford shale and intensify fracking around communities I work with, even though they are already overburdened with the consequences of fossil fuel development. The increased use of liquefied natural gas would continue to worsen climate change. If this pipeline is built, my work would be made more difficult.

13. I am an environmentalist in this region. I have dedicated my entire professional career to trying to preserve the natural habitat in the area that I call home. The ocelot is already so critically endangered that scientists have said they faced a high risk of extinction in the next 40 years. It grieves me that my generation may be the last to visit their wildlife habitats, see evidence of their existence, and get a glimpse of them—something I glean so much personal enjoyment from. I worry for the populations of wild bird species I watch and lament that the projects would destroy their habitat. The destruction of habitat for the construction of the projects would negatively impact my enjoyment of the Bahia Grande. I worry it will detract from the enjoyment of people I tour around the Bahia Grande, making my job to educate and persuade

them more difficult. For these personal and professional reasons, these projects would negatively impact my life. I support the Sierra Club's litigation and hope the Sierra Club succeeds.

I declare under the penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States that, to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated November 27, 2023



Rebekah Lynn Hinojosa